

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (original) A process of preparing methyl 1,2-epoxy-2-methyl propionate, comprising the steps of:
- a) dissolving oxone in a basic solution;
 - b) adding methyl methacrylate to the oxone solution;
 - c) adding an acid to the oxone solution to form methyl 1,2-epoxy-2-methyl propionate; and
 - d) recovering methyl 1,2-epoxy-2-methyl propionate.
28. (original) The process according to claim 27, wherein the basic solution is selected from the group consisting of potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide.
29. (original) The process according to claim 28, wherein the potassium hydroxide has a concentration of 10 M.
30. (original) The process according to claim 27, wherein the oxone is 50% KHSO₅.
31. (original) The process according to claim 27, wherein the methyl methacrylate is added in methanol.
32. (original) The process according to claim 27, wherein the oxone solution containing methyl methacrylate is maintained at about pH 6.
33. (original) The process according to claim 27, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and phosphoric acid.

Appl. No. To be Assigned
Amdt. Dated March 1, 2004
Preliminary Amendment

34. (original) The process according to claim 33, wherein the hydrochloric acid has a concentration of about 0.05 N to about 5 N.

Claims 35-49 (canceled)